[1st November 1932

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to clause (b) of question No. 95 answered on the 4th August 1932.

Grazing and compounding fees collected in the Thodikana reserve.

* 239 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of animals licensed to graze last year in the Thodikana reserve forest in South Mangalore division;

(b) the grazing fees collected therefrom last year;

(c) the number of cattle impounded by forest subordinates in Thodikana in May and in June this year;

(d) the rate of impounding fee to be paid for each buffalo or cow; and

(e) the compounding fees collected in June 1932 from the villagers whose cattle strayed into the forest area closed to grazing?

A.—(a) 235 { 221 cows or bulls.
14 buffaloes.

(b) Rs. 91-10-0.

(c) 19 { 12 cows or bulls.
7 buffaloes.

(d) Rs. 2 per buffalo and
Re. 1 per cow or bull.

(e) Nil.

Withdrawal of grazing rights in certain forests in Puttur and Kasaragod taluks.

* 240 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Medinadka block of reserved forest in Puttur taluk and the Bantaje block in Kasaragod range have been closed to grazing for a period of one year from 30th June 1932;

(b) whether the alleged reason for the withdrawal of the grazing rights in these blocks is an excess of forest fires in the course of the last year; and

(c) whether any enquiry has been made into the number and the causes of such fires and if so, the particulars of such enquiry and its results?

A.—(a) A part of Medinadka West Reserved Forest and the whole of Bantaje Reserved Forest have been closed to grazing.

(b) The closures have been enforced on account of fires.

(c) There were 13 cases of fire in these reserves during the years 1931 and 1932. In some cases enquiries into the origin of fire were made by the Range Officer and in others by the forest guards concerned. There was definite proof of incendiarism in one case; while in one case the report definitely says that the fire was not wilfully caused. The origin of the rest can only be matter of surmise.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" May I know what connexion there is between the fires and the allowing of the ryots to graze their cattle in the forests? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Because there was some suspicion in the mind of the department that the graziers set fire to the forest and after enquiry it was decided that these graziers should not be allowed to graze their cattle."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" Is it not a fact that last year there was a lot of loss to the Government on account of such fire on the Western Ghauts? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I am not aware of any such thing."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" I think the reserve forests extend to the very dwelling houses of these villagers and it would be very inconvenient for them if they are not allowed to graze their cattle in those forests? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I do not think so."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" Will the hon. Member be pleased to call for a report? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" There is no reason for calling for a report; all these answers are based upon reports received from the officers connected with the Forest administration, and as a matter of fact a detailed enquiry has been made into the whole matter and as a result of that enquiry these answers have been framed."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" Is the report based on suspicion or upon facts? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"On facts."

Petition to the Collector of South Kanara regarding withdrawal of grazing rights.

* 241 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the petitions submitted to the Collector of South Kanara by the residents of villages adjoining the Bantaje and Medinadka blocks of reserved forests regarding the hardship caused to them by the withdrawal of grazing rights in the said blocks; and

(*b*) how many permits for grazing cattle in the said blocks were issued to ryots in each of the last three years?